

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, UY

SUBJ: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 010646

1. SITREPS ON CUBAN INTERVENTION ON ANGOLA BEING DISCUSSED REGULARLY WITH ALVARO ALVAREZ, DIRECTOR, FOREIGN POLICY BUREAU OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALVAREZ, KEY POLICY MAN ON POLITICAL SIDE OF MINISTRY, IN TURN, BRIEFS FONMIN BLANCO AND OTHERS IN MINISTRY ON SITUATION. IF USUAL SOP FOLLOWED, BLANCO DOES DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT AS HE KEENLY INTERESTED IN ALL THINGS RELATED TO CUBA AND COMMUNISM.

2. ALVAREZ' REACTIONS (AND WE BELIEVE HE REFLECTS FONOFF THINKING GENERALLY) HAVE NOT VARIED SINCE FIRST SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH HIM ON ANGOLA IN EARLY NOVEMBER. FIRST, THERE IS A FEELING OF VINDICATION FOR URUGUAY'S HAVING ARGUED LONG AND HARD DURING OAS DEBATES ON CUBAN SANCTIONS THAT CUBAN INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES CONTINUE UNABATED. THE "WE TOLD YOU SO" ATTITUDE IS STRONG. SECOND, THE URUGUAYANS BELIEVE THE U.S. SHOULD NOT PERMIT "THE COMMUNISTS" TO TAKE CONTROL OF ANGOLA, EVEN IF THIS WERE TO CALL FOR U.S. INTERVENTION. ALVAREZ RECOGNIZES THE INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN SUCH AN ATTITUDE AND THE GOU'S TRADITIONAL DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION. NEVERTHELESS, URUGUAY HAS BEEN ENGULFED BY BOTH A WAVE OF ANTI-COMMUNIST FEELING AND A FEAR OF CONTINUED

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COMMUNIST INTERVENTION. THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM S.E. ASIA EXACER-

BATED CONCERN OVER COMMUNIST EXPANSION WORLDWIDE AND BROUGHT INTO QUESTION THE U.S.' WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND THE FREE WORLD. PRINCIPLES NOTWITHSTANDING, THE GOU SEES ANGOLA AS A TEST CASE WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. MAY BE RELIED UPON AS A BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNIST EXPANSION BLATANTLY CARRIED OUT BY FORCE. SIRACUSA

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